

Project

Harrogate Borough Council



The power of change

How installing ground source heat pumps has significantly improved the lives of Harrogate Borough Council tenants

Warm rooms and hot water on tap is something many of us take for granted. Yet many people in the UK living in older properties still use real fires to heat their homes and electricity to power hot water systems. Wendy Revens, who lives in Sharrow, near Ripon, North Yorkshire, was one of them, until npower installed ground source heat pumps in her garden. "I've lived in my house for almost 20 years," she recalls. "Until March 2011, when the work was carried out, we used a coal fire to heat our living room. Building a coal fire requires a lot of effort and it takes a while before the room gets warm. Coming home to a cold house and then having to build a fire and wait for it to provide heat was far from ideal," she admits.

Warm welcome

"Since the new central heating system has been fitted, you can feel the warmth as soon as you get home and open the front door. The house is warm throughout the day, too, which has made a huge difference when the weather has been colder. Previously, many parts of the house used to be freezing in the winter – it was like living in the Dark Ages."

Cost saving is another major benefit, Wendy says. "Coal is expensive. A bag costs about £15-£20, which doesn't last very long when it's cold. I won't have to pay anywhere near as much to stay warm this winter, plus, it will be warm around the clock throughout the house – not just in one or two rooms. I'm delighted with my new heating system – it will make life much easier and better."

Reduced bills

Another happy resident is Allan Holmes of Church Lane, Wighill, near Tadcaster: "I'm 53 years old and I've lived in my house since 1965. The new heating system has made a massive difference. Now, the house is warm when I need it to be. I no longer have to come in and make a fire to warm the place up."

"They put in a new electric fire, too, but I haven't had to use it because the central heating system does a great job. I also have hot water when I need it, which is brilliant. My bills have even fallen, which is an added bonus."

"I couldn't fault anything. The workmen did a great job – inside and outside my home – they just got on with the work and put everything back as it should be when they were finished."

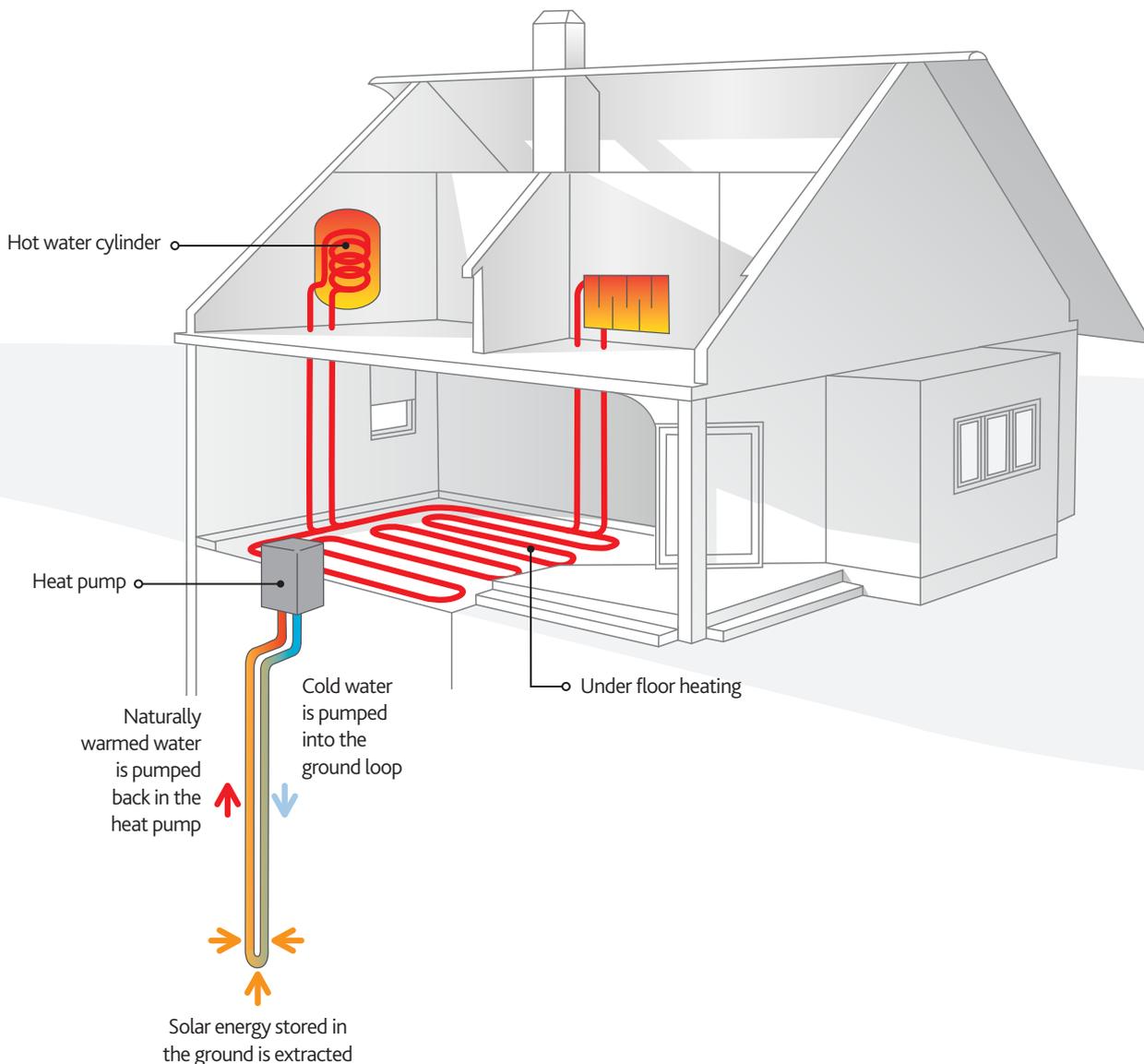
Source of happiness

Over an eight-week period npower installed ground source heat pumps (GSHP) and heating systems at ten Harrogate Borough Council-owned residential properties. The contract was finished in March 2011.

Ground source heating is a form of renewable energy that makes use of solar heat stored naturally within the earth.

How do ground source heat pumps work?

A ground source heat pump system extracts solar and/or geothermal energy from the ground and, similar to how a fridge works, compresses and magnifies that energy to create enough heat to generate room warmth and heat water.



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